

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

A TRIBUTE TO HONOR THE LIFE OF ALBERT JOSEPH BERTI

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Albert J. Berti who died at the age of 94 on November 28, 2013. He leaves his beloved wife, Mary Vitelli Berti, and his children Paula Lake, Linda Bonforte, Dana Berti Cassillo, Andrea Hennessy, Peter Berti, Christopher Berti, Mary E. Berti, Martha Berti and Monica Casazza. He was the devoted grandfather of 21, and the great grandfather of 5, as well as the brother of Iris Scott Bangston.

Mr. Berti served our country with distinction during World War II and was buried with the military honors he earned and deserved. He also enjoyed a long career with the United States Department of the Treasury.

I'm blessed to enjoy the friendship of one of Mr. Berti's daughters, Andrea Hennessy. In Andrea's words, her father's life was "rich in all the ways that matter, and his large family will cherish his memory forever."

Albert Berti lived a life rooted in the best traditions of our country. He was a patriot who served his country. He was an exemplary husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, and he contributed to the life of his community and strengthened our country with his integrity and values.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring the life of Albert J. Berti, and in extending our condolences to his family.

HONORING GARY FRANCE, OWNER OF FRANCE PROPANE SERVICE, INC., IN SCHOFIELD, WISCONSIN AND HIS SERVICE TO THE NATIONAL PROPANE GAS ASSOCIATION AND PROPANE INDUSTRY

HON. SEAN P. DUFFY

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. DUFFY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special honor to my constituent Gary France, owner of France Propane Service, Inc., in Schofield, Wisconsin. After decades of hard work in the propane industry, Mr. France has received the distinct honor of being named Chairman of the Board of Directors of the National Propane Gas Association (NPGA). As Chairman, Gary brings experience and wisdom to the position, leading a national organization of more than 3,000 members of the propane gas industry.

Mr. France has served as an industry leader on both the state and national levels for almost four decades. He started his work in the propane industry in 1964 working at his family's retail propane business at the young age

of 13. After decades of commitment to growing his family's business, Mr. France became a small business owner in 1990 when he bought his family business and formed France Propane Service, Inc.

Prior to serving as Chairman of NPGA, Mr. France represented the state of Wisconsin on the NPGA Board of Directors from 2002 until 2010, and received the State Director of the Year Award in 2009. During this period, he also chaired NPGA's Member Services Committee and was a member of the Government Affairs Committee. Mr. France also has served on the Board of the Wisconsin Propane Gas Association for 35 years, during which time he served as President and as Chair of the Education and Legislative Committees.

On a personal level, Mr. France's servant's heart extends to his beloved family. He has been married to his wife Nancy for nearly 40 years, and has raised three children and now four grandchildren. Mr. France has also been a stalwart in his local communities of Schofield and Wausau, taking on leadership roles with the Wausau Early Bird Rotary Club, the Chamber of Commerce, the Wausau Area Catholic School System, and the Mobile Meals charitable organization.

Mr. France's innate ability to lead by example and his natural penchant to take pride in his work resonates throughout the propane community. He stands as an example of the work ethic, genuine humility, and love-for-country that one finds in Wisconsin.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to call Gary France a constituent and a friend, and I congratulate him on attaining this high honor.

SOLAR ENERGY

HON. MATT SALMON

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. SALMON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw attention to the great progress being made in the use of clean, reliable solar energy across America and particularly in my home state of Arizona. I urge my colleagues to join me on January 24 for the national Shout Out for Solar Day.

Arizona's solar industry employs almost 10,000 people at more than 250 companies. Not only are we the second-largest solar user in the country, solar in Arizona is growing faster than in every state besides California. There is now enough solar generation in Arizona to power almost 200,000 homes.

2013 was a record-shattering year for solar, in Arizona and across the Nation, and I am proud to lend my voice to supporting the continued success of solar energy. Please join me on January 24 and Shout Out for Solar.

HONORING ETHAN YOUNG

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 23, 2014

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I wish today to honor an exceptional high school student from my District whose commonsense and eloquent words brought national attention to education policy.

Ethan Young, a senior at Farragut High School in Knox County, Tennessee, recently testified in front of the Knox County School Board against Common Core, the one-size-fits-all educational scheme being implemented across the Nation.

Ethan's speech was noticed by outlets such as FOX News and Glenn Beck, who called the remarks possibly the best case against Common Core ever made.

I have been friends with Ethan's grandmother for many years and know him to be a very passionate and intelligent young man.

Mr. Speaker, Ethan has learned through his own experience that, in his words, "creativity, appreciation, and inquisitiveness are impossible to scale." I bring his powerful speech, which is reprinted below in its entirety, to the attention of my Colleagues and other readers of the RECORD. All education policy-makers should listen closely to his wisdom.

SPEECH TO KNOX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

(By Ethan Young)

In a mere five minutes, I hope to provide insightful comments about a variety of educational topics. I sincerely hope you disprove the research I've compiled.

Here's the history of the Common Core. In 2009, the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers partnered with Achieve Inc., a nonprofit that received millions in funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Thus the initiative seemed to spring from states, when in reality it was contrived by an insular group of educational testing executives with only two academic content specialists. Neither specialist approved the final standards, and the English consultant, Dr. Sandra Stotsky, publicly stated she felt the standards left students with an empty skill set, lacking literary knowledge.

While educators and administrators were later included in the validation committee and feedback groups, they did not play a role in the actual drafting of the standards. The product is a, quote, "rigorous preparation for career and college," yet many educators agree that "rigorous" is a buzzword. These standards aren't rigorous, just different, designed for industrial model of school.

Nevertheless, Common Core emerged. Keep in mind, the specific standards were never voted upon by Congress, the Department of Education, state or local governments. Yet, their implementation was approved by 49 states and territories. The president essentially bribed states into implementation via Race to the Top, offering 4.35 billion taxpayer dollars to participating states, \$500 million of which went to Tennessee. And much like No Child Left Behind, the program

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